

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE FAIRBOURNE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 1ST DECEMBER COMMENCING 7.00 PM

1131: The Chairman Opened the Meeting: The Chairman Cllr Roberts opened the meeting at 7.00pm. The meeting was moved from the Multi Use room to the Large Room. Covid rules observed.

1132: Present: Cllr P Roberts, Cllr (Mrs) G Salt, Cllr (Mrs) C Darville, Cllr J Haycock, Cllr (Mrs) L Hughes, Cllr J Woolley, Cllr B Woolley, Clerk Angela Thomas

1133: Apologies Received: Cllr S Eves, Cllr P Thomas, Cllr (Mrs) H Neville.

1134: Councillors' Declaration of Interest: No interest declared.

1135: To Receive Any Special Announcements: Cllr Roberts read a letter received from Mr Mike Scott. Mike Scott announced his resignation from heading up the Fairbourne Flood Plan and his position of Flood Warden. Cllr Roberts expressed his sincere appreciation of all the work and perseverance that Mike Scott had given to ensuring that Fairbourne Flood Plan was in the best possible position and ready should the need arise. The Clerk was asked to write a letter from the ACC to Mike Scott expressing thanks for all his hard work.

1136: To Confirm Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd November: Minutes confirmed as correct, proposed by Cllr Woolley, seconded by Cllr (Mrs) Salt. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman

1137: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd November 2021. No matters arising.

1138: Clerks Report: Fairbourne Notice Boards on the Promenade. Clerk had written to Barry Davies who confirmed that the notice Boards will be re-instated in Spring 2022. The Chairman pointed out that the Council Notice Board in Arthog was in a terrible condition and that early next year work will have to be carried out on it. Maybe Bill Round would be able to make a repair. The Clerk had sent an email to all local councils regarding the situation Fairbourne find itself in, the only reply came from Aberdovey. The Clerk read the email received from the Clerk in Aberdovey, who find themselves in a similar situation to Fairbourne without the threat of decommissioning. The wharf, sea wall and golf club are subjected to flooding on a regular basis. The Clerk told the Councillors that a new information sign from NRW will be erected at Penrhyn Point highlighting wildlife etc. The clerk received the Precept application form which has been submitted and confirmed. The Clerk confirmed that the BBC had sent a reply to the many complaints received regarding the Morning Live Programme which implied that Fairbourne had been catastrophically flooded. They did not apologise. The Clerk had asked Keith Ivens if Fairbourne had been categorized as flooded in 2014. Keith Ivens said he would consult the communications department and let the Clerk know. The Chair said that the problem is that work is appraised from an office rather than on site, and work is based on scientific assessment rather than physical assessment. A copy of the Countryfile email regarding the statement from Welsh Government and Gwynedd County Council about the future of Fairbourne had been sent to all Councillors'. The statements varied quite considerably. No reply had been received from either Barmouth Council or Griffiths construction regard benches on the viaduct. The Clerk will ask permission from Network Rail to proceed as Fairbourne alone. The footpath will in fact not open until the New Year.

1139: Special Items Brought to Attention: No special items brought to attention.

1140: To deal with Any Correspondence: Dealt with in the Clerks report.

1141: To Deal with Planning Matters: 5 Arthog Terrace was discussed. It was possibly a matter relating to Spanish as opposed to Welsh slate having to be replaced. Cllr Louise Hughes gave a report on the visit of the Planning Officer, Mr Parry, to Fairbourne to discuss the land that had been cleared at the end of Heol Seithendre and the placing of three Pods into two different gardens within Fairbourne. The land at Heol Seithendre has planning permission for a further 5 homes to replicate the 4 homes already built. There is no breach of planning rules regarding this development. The Pod placed in the garden at Heol Seithendre does not breach planning rules, however the two pods placed in the fenced off garden at the side of the property in Llewellyn Drive is a different matter. This appears to constitute a change of use. The owner of the property and land will be contacted by the Planning Department. They appear to have been connected to mains water and electricity, with a gas tank having also been placed on the property. Pods are considered a very grey area by Gwynedd Council.

1142: Financial Statement and Report: The Clerk presented the monthly analysis. All accounts are in order. Three cheques were presented for signature. £1000.00 for Fairbourne Amenities Trust, £25.00 to cover the cost of the Wreath and £100.00 donation to Dail Dysynni. Accounts were presented for both FAT and DD. The Clerk stated that charges may be applied to one or more of the ACC Bank Accounts.

Current Account: £ 9337.96

Reserve/Election Account: £ 4000.17
Cemetery Account: £ 3275.00
Youth/Playpark Account: £ 6076.46

1143: To Receive Councillors' Questions: Cllr Roberts confirmed that this year the Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph had turned into a bit of a nightmare. All the usual procedures regarding road closure had been followed exactly as in previous years. Upon arrival there were three police representatives present. They informed the Chairman, Cllr Roberts that they were not allowed to affect a road closure, the Police are not allowed to close a road. The Clerk had received an email on the same evening informing her that the Police hoped that procedure would be followed for next year. It transpires that in all the years the service has been held there has never been a problem in the Police closing the road. Next year the Council will have to supply signs and traffic lights and officers to officially close the road. This will be up for discussion in the New Year. The Clerk had written to Steffan Jones, GC, asking for clarification. Steffan had forwarded the email to the environment department. At this moment in time a reply had not been received by the ACC.

Cllr (Mrs) Salt asked if would be possible to formalize a litter picking group within the Village. Cllr (Mrs) Neville was not present, so it was decided to carry this forward to the next meeting.

Cllr Haycock gave a summary of the current situation facing the Pigaraff Charity. He confirmed that it was now once again registered with the Charity Commission. Current balance is unknown.

1144: Representatives Report: Cllr (Mrs) Salt said that a meeting had taken place with the business and tourism department of Gwynedd Council, in attendance were Sian Pennant YGC, Colin James Morris YGC, and Cllr (Mrs) Salt, the Clerk and Cllr Eves. The discussion started on the beach where the ramp was mentioned and discussed at length. Other topics discussed were, bins, dog poo bins, the cutting of grass, the weed clearing along the promenade path, signs etc. It was confirmed that it had been acknowledged that the whole of Gwynedd was looking scruffy, and funding had been allocated to try and smarten up the County. It was mentioned that small levy could be added to the parking fees in the Council Car Parks and that levy could be then paid to Fairbourne Amenities Trust to better Fairbourne. It was thought that this was being actioned in Barmouth. The Clerk confirmed that the parking rates were now in line with other tourist hot spots in Gwynedd. Cllr (Mrs) Salt mentioned the application for a Green Flag Coast rating. To proceed with this application, we would need to have a set litter picking programme and a risk assessment for the beach. It maybe that this will have to proceed next year. Fairbourne is classed as having excellent water quality. Sian Pennant will send a summary of what was discussed in the next few days.

Golf Club: Lease agreement to be carried forward to the next meeting in January. Fairbourne Amenities Trust: Cllr Roberts gave a run down of the present situation. All was going to plan. Tarmacking will commence as soon as is possible. The Terracycling is on hold for the moment as the young man, Craig Dobbins, has gone back to the Midlands because he felt he was not receiving enough support. Cemetery: Nothing to report.

1145: The appointment of a representative from the ACC to sit on the Procurement Panel for the HIA. This proposal was discussed at great length. The Clerk being the only member of the Fairbourne Moving Forward Project Board present gave a summary of the proposal by Gwynedd Council to appoint an organisation to conduct this Health Impact Assessment. It transpires that a grant of £35,000 has been allocated from the original £40,000 grant for this HIA. All Councillors present were invited to comment with regard to the proposal. Discussions were lengthy and protracted and at the end of the session it was decided that the best way forward would be to invite Huw Williams YGC to attend the next meeting in January and make a presentation to the ACC. After the presentation the Councillors can vote on whether to proceed with the HIA and who will represent the ACC. The Clerk will email Huw Williams and Elin Roberts YGC, with the suggestion that Huw is invited to attend the January meeting, Covid rules permitting.

1145: Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday January 5th 2022 in the Arthog Village Hall.